

# History of the Goins Cabin

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This document is compiled from USDA Forest Documents, photos, and hours of Forest Archeologists Keri Hicks and James Halpern insight. The main documents are in poor condition and required retyping, images were drawn in pencil and fading.

**Transcribed and redesigned By Kelsey M. Blanford and William F. Whitacre**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
Cassville Ranger District

REPLY TO: 1680 History

August 6, 1976

SUBJECT: Goins Cabin, Cassville District

TO: Forest Supervisor, Rolla, MO 65401

Enclosed is a copy of the results of a work project concluded by five of our Youth Conservation Corps enrollees, under the direction of Technician Theresa Glover.

The group had only two days provided during which they could conduct the research, organize the data, develop the sketches, and type the narrative.

We felt you would like to have a copy of this accomplishment for your file. It is our hope that restoration work can be accomplished in years to come on the cabin to restore it to its original design and condition.

James P. Roles  
District Ranger

Enclosure

# **HISTORICAL STUDY OF GOINS CABIN**

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August 3, 1976

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## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

In 1965 due to the rapid deterioration of Goins cabin, a previous study was conducted by the Cassville Ranger District in order to determine if the cabin should remain standing and if so, to acquire the necessary orders in reconstruction of a roof to prevent further decay of the structure. These goals were accomplished and the structures were repaired for this reason.

During the summer of 1976, the need for an additional study was suggested to the Youth Conservation Corp. Cassville Ranger District, Cassville, Missouri. The Corp undertook the task of compiling this data for future reference.

The Corp is greatly appreciative to Mrs. Daisy Parker, Seligman, Missouri for the bulk of the information contained in this report.

The Corp is also grateful for the information supplied by Mrs. Erma Garrett of Cassville, Missouri and all others who made this report possible.

## INTRODUCTION

In this time when progress continues to move us more rapidly through the technological ages, many United States citizens feel the need to preserve what has been in the past. Departments dedicated to serve all Americans, success at the U.S. Forest Service, have an obligation to study prospective historical sites to determine if any action should be taken in restoration of these sites.

For this reason the Youth Conservation Corp of the Cassville Ranger District had been assigned the task of collecting all possible data on Goins cabin, located on Sugar Camp Road, approximately ten miles south of Cassville, Missouri.

This compilation, therefore, is distinctive in that it attempts to aid the U.S. Forest Service in determining the action to be taken on the Goins Homestead.

## HISTORY OF GOINS CABIN

Construction of Cabin—The writers were informed by Daisy Parker of Seligman, Missouri and Mrs. Ella Frost of Cassville, Missouri that Absalom B. Goins was born in Ohio in 1845. He moved from Ohio after the Civil War to Tennessee. There he met and married Margaret Babbs in 1866 at Thurstin Gap Tennessee. They moved from Tennessee to Indiana and had four children, Minerva, William, Dock, and John A. (See Table A, Page 8, for births and deaths). The family moved east for a short time and then to Washburn Prairie.

With the help of Dock and John, A.B. Goins built a one room cabin . The cabin was constructed of the surrounding white oak trees. All materials, logs, shingles, etc., were fashioned by hand with axes and hoes.

The two story cabin consisted of one room downstairs with two doors and one small window. The upstairs had one small window at each end. The boxed-in stairs were located to the right of the front door. The staircase had a door on the ground floor that when closed, kept the cabin “cozy” in the winter. The floor was off the ground about a foot on a stone foundation. There was no fireplace. The rooms were heated by a stove located behind the stairs with a pipe leading upstairs. (See Table B, Page 1, for diagram of cabin).

The family moved into the cabin on March 5, 1886. The family homesteaded the forty acres long enough to acquire the land as their own.

Description of Cabin During Daisy’s Childhood—In 1900 Dock Goins and Rachael Reed Goins moved into the cabin and built a side room(8 to 10 feet wide) on the back. This side room with a back door was constructed of white oak with a shingle roof all made by Dock. Dock added the barn, smokehouse, henhouse, hog crib and springhouse. The spring was located approximately 200 yards from the house. (See Tables C & D1 & D2 pages 10 & 11,12).

Cabin after 1923—The cabin was sold to Frank Ruark and later to Joseph Schooler. The Schoolers built the fireplace around 1937.



The following were occupants of the house until the Forest Service acquired the cabin in 1965:

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Garrett & family

Tilford family



Photo 1 Goins Cabin April 1965 File#1-04001965-0001



## FOREST SERVICE ACQUISITION OF CABIN

Cabin Acquired—According to the Forest Service files on Goins Cabin, the Forest Service acquired the cabin in April, 1965. The cabin's and land were exchanged for the Government owned land.



Photo 2 Goins Cabin November 1965 before roof work start File#1-11001965-0001

Roofing of Cabin—shortly after the cabin was acquired by the Forest Service, the Cassville Ranger District received orders to construct a badly needed roof which would prevent further decay of the walls and other structures of the cabin. The new roof consisted of commercial shingles and was completed in 1967.



Photo 3 Goins Cabin Roof Repair start Work January 1967 File#1-01001967-0001

Maintenance of Spring—At or about the same time of the roof construction, the Cassville Ranger District enclosed the entrance of the spring with a cement box-like structure to prevent damage to the spring from erosion. They also placed a pipe leading from the entrance to a holding tank located approximately 20 feet from the spring.





Photo 4 Goins Cabin After Roof Repairs September 1968 File#1-09001968-0002



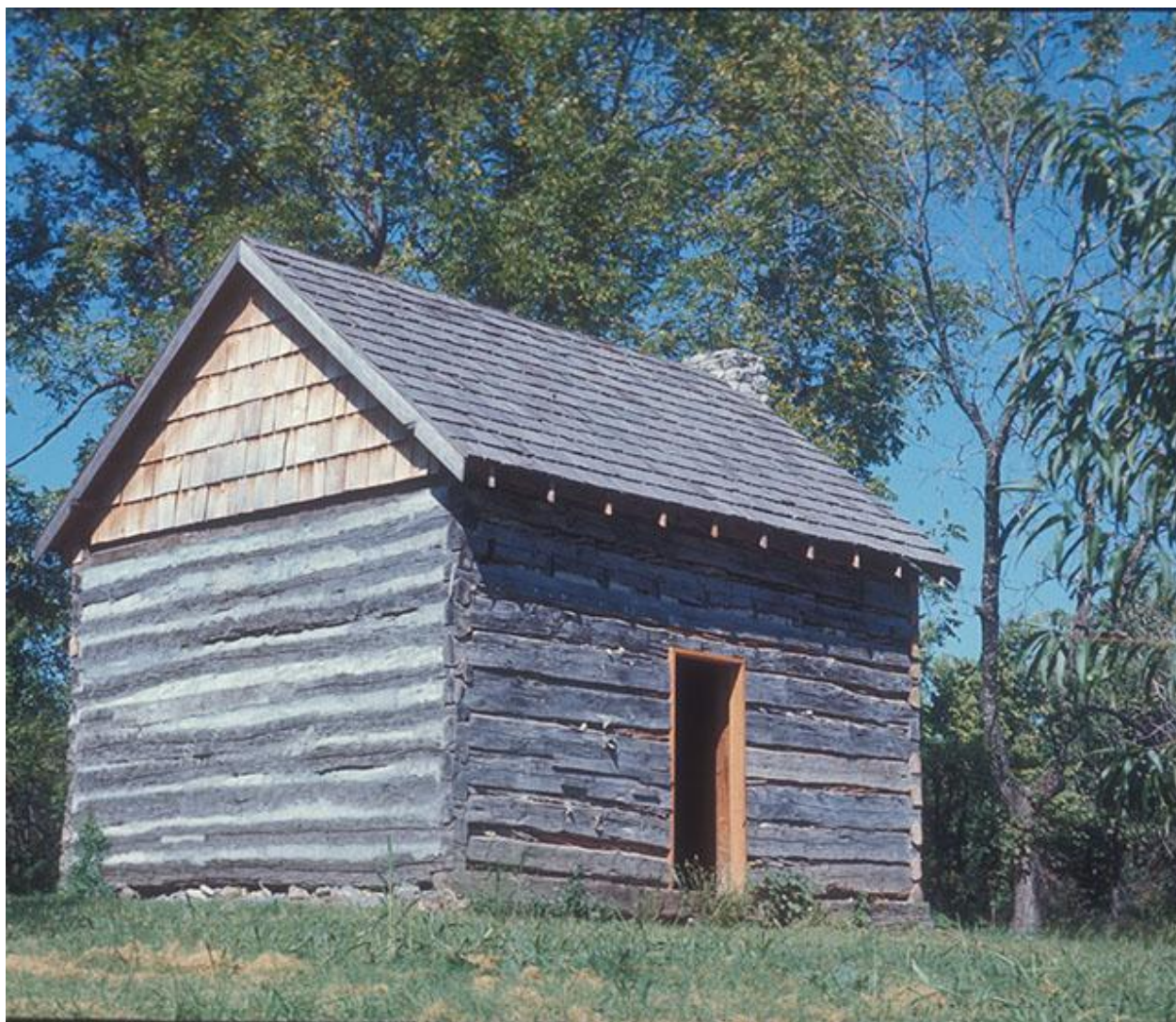


Photo 5 Goins Cabin After Roof Repairs September 1968 File#1-09001968-0001



Photo 6 Goins Cabin defaced October 1973 File# 1-10001973-0001



## **PRESENT CONDITION OF CABIN**

Roof—The Forest Service has built a new roof to lessen the rate of deterioration of the logs of the cabin. The roof itself is in good condition and is constructed of commercial shingles.

Chink—Much of the concert chink has fallen out.

Upstairs floor, The upstairs floor, not the original, is severely rotted in many areas and therefore cannot be used for support.

Foundation Missing—Due to the absence of the foundation, the cabin now sits on the ground without a floor.



Photo 7 Goins Cabin June 1975 File#1-06001975-0001



Photo 8 Goins Cabin July 1975 File#1-07001975-0001



## PROPOSAL FOR RESTORATION

The Youth Conservation Corp of 1976 of the Cassville Ranger District, Cassville, Missouri propose that future generations of Youth Conservation Corp reconstruct, by hand, all materials and buildings that were present during the childhood of Daisy Parker.

This includes the following:

- A. Constructions of a roof, native to that era of time.
- B. Construction of the foundation.
- C. Construction of a floor.
- D. Removal of fireplace, since it was not there during her childhood.
- E. Construction of the staircase.
- F. Construction of the original window and location of the upstairs and downstairs windows.

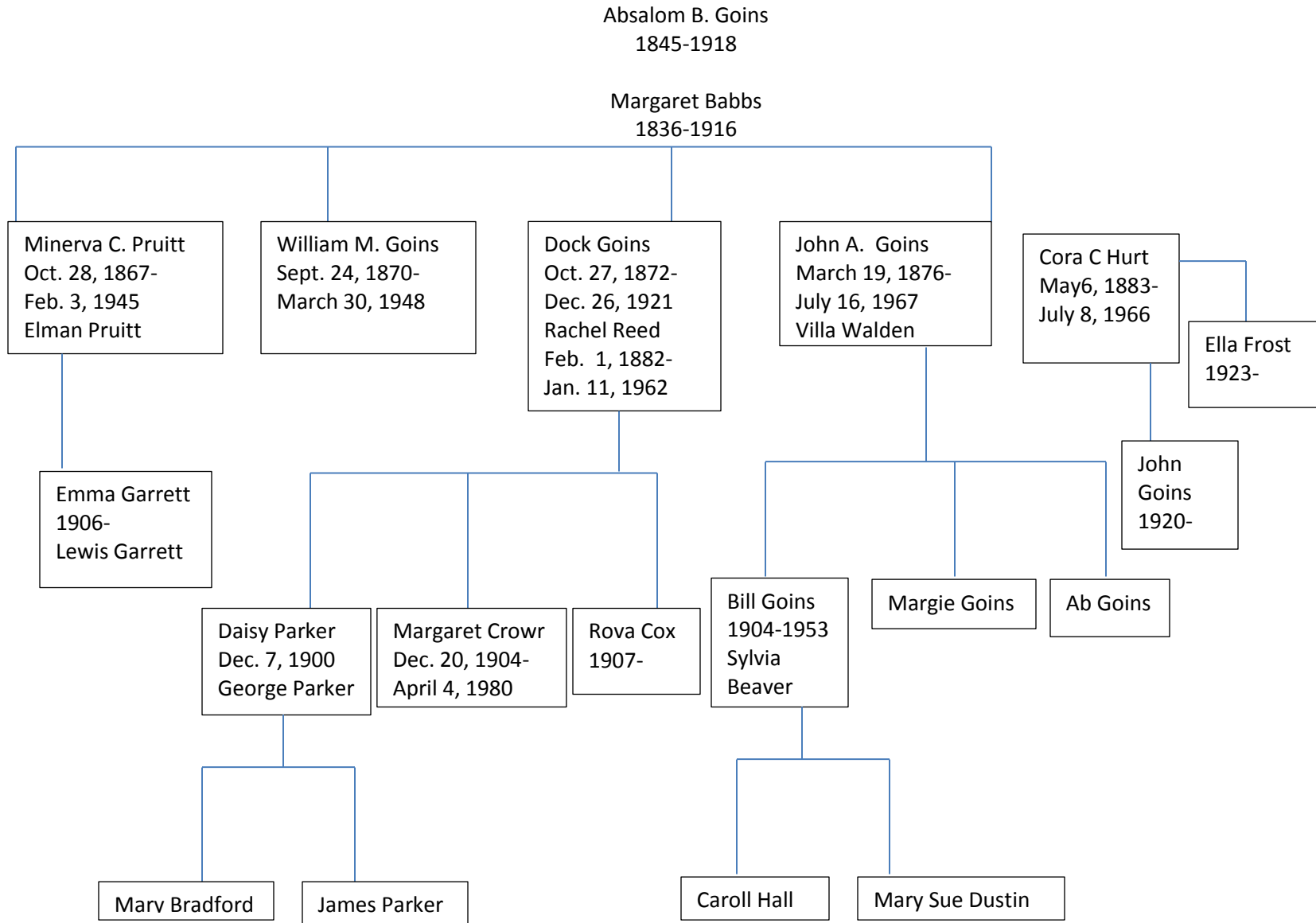
Many other structures need to be considered in the actual restoration of this site. (See Table E, page 13, for diagrams of the homestead during Daisy Parker's childhood.

The writers of the proposal had only two days to gather information and prepare this report. Therefore, many items of interest could not be included. They strongly suggest that interested persons contact Mrs. Daisy Parker of Seligman, Missouri, Mrs. Ema Garrett, Cassville, Missouri, and Mrs. Ella Frost, Cassville, Missouri.

## **DESTRUCTION**

Before additional construction was done, vandals damaged the building in the summer of 1980. The cabin was then completely destroyed by fire on April 19, 1981.

**Table A- Goins Family Tree**



Page 9

Croins Cabin 1886 and 1900  
inside main room

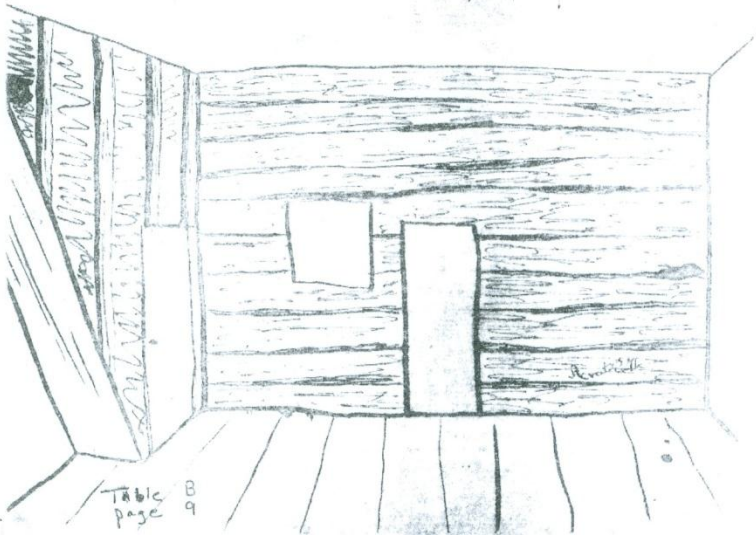
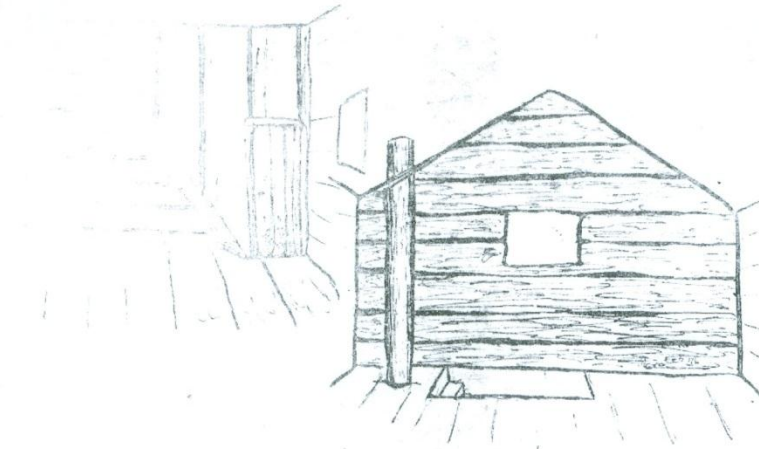
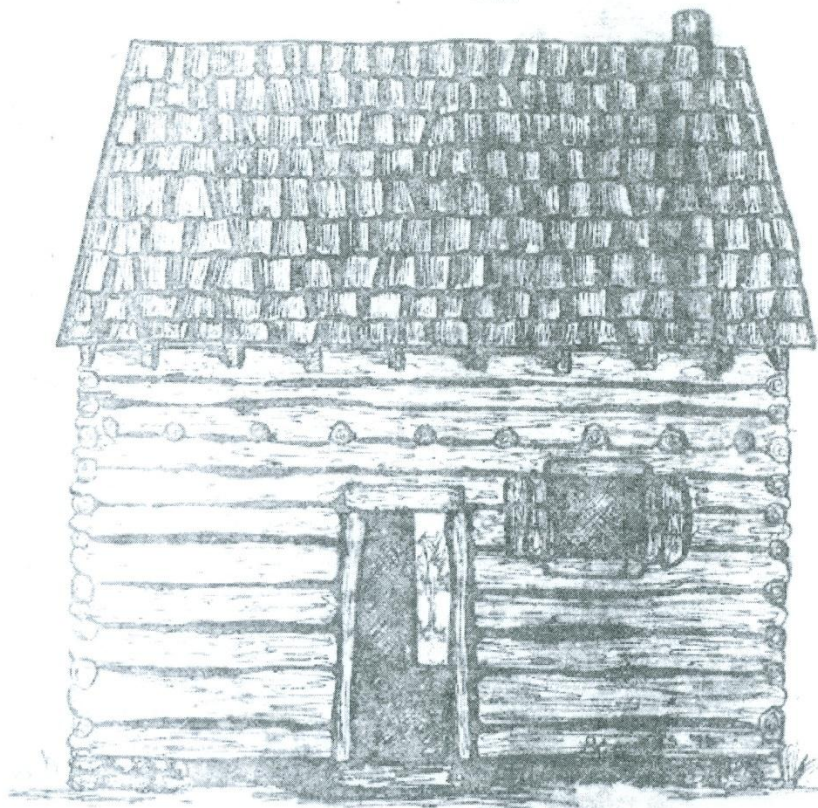


Table 8  
page 9

Table C  
Page 10

## Goins Cabin

As it was in 1986 ~~and it~~  
~~it should be restored.~~

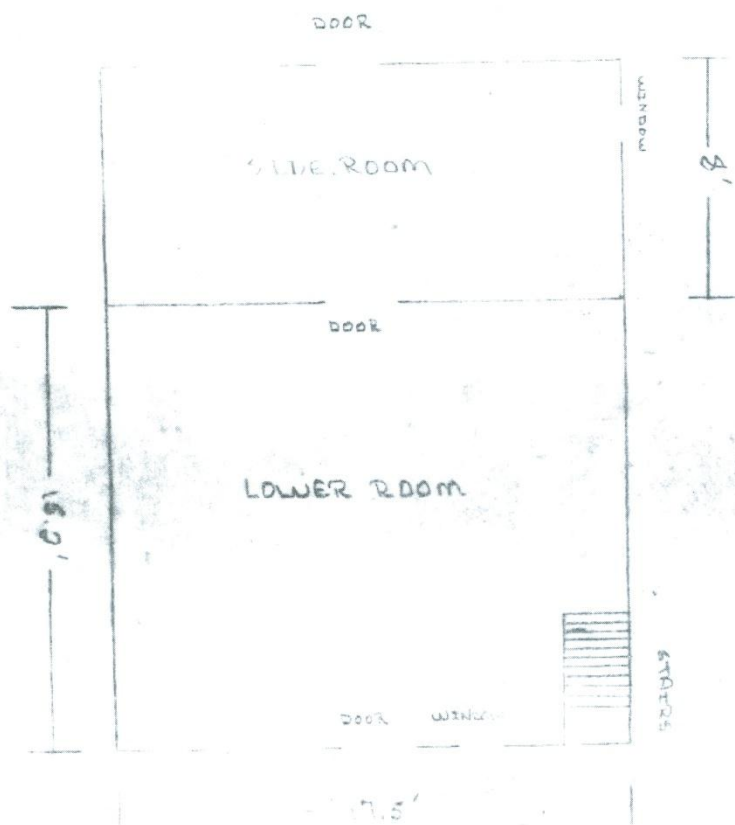


This was the same as it  
in 1900 also, except the  
side room was added.



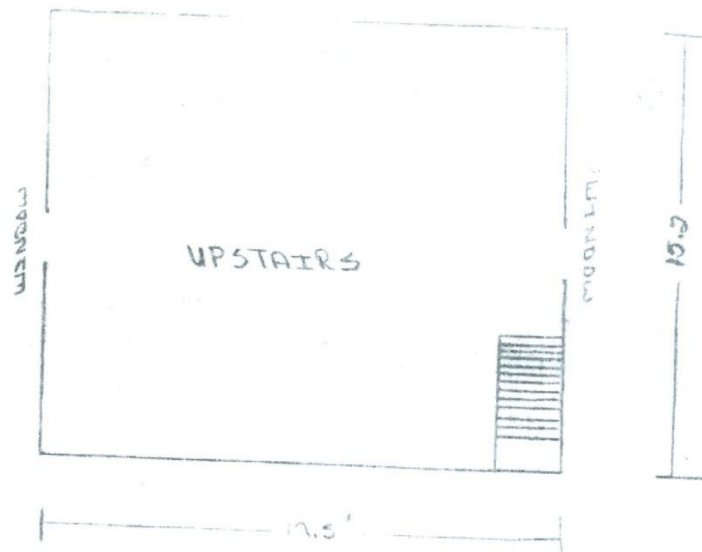
D1  
11

# GOINS CABIN



10  
e 12

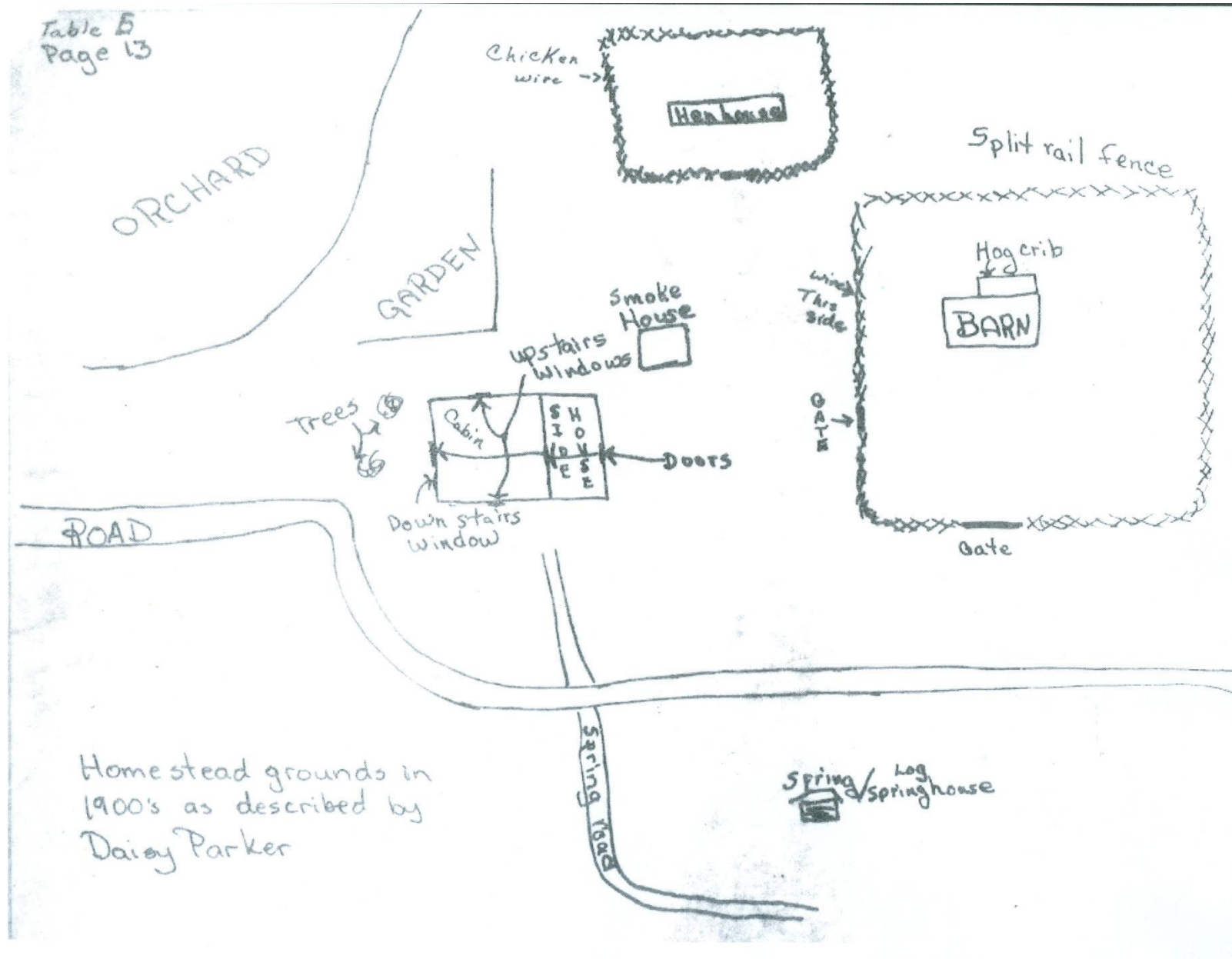
# GOINS CABIN



D2, Page 12



Table B  
Page 13





Present appearance of Goins  
cabin, 1976.

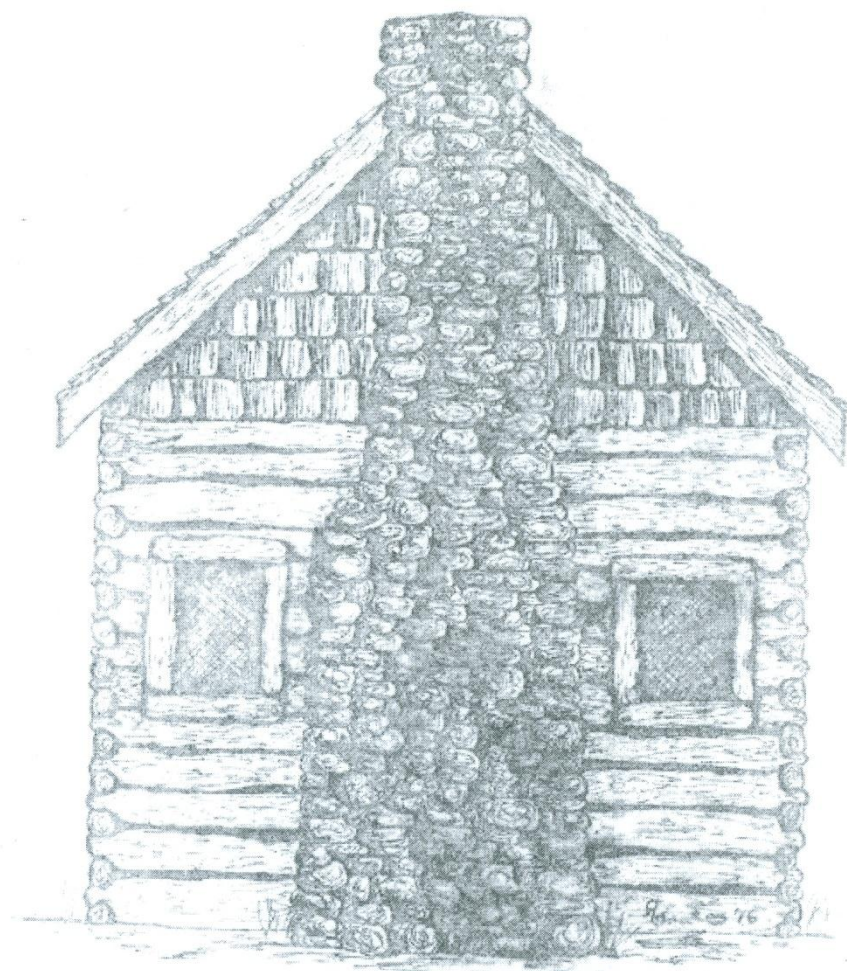


Table F  
Page 14

# GOINS CABIN

Field Plan 1976

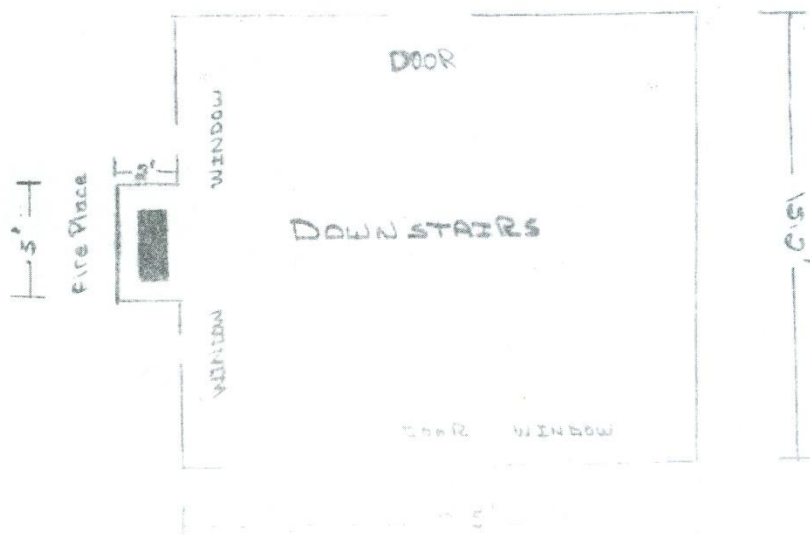


Table G  
Page 15

# GRINS CABIN

Floor Plan 1976

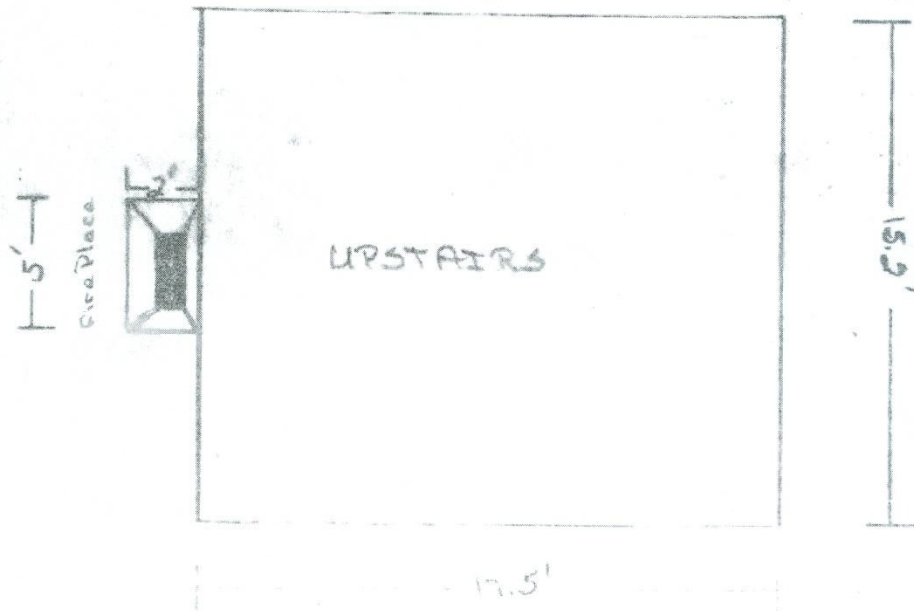


Table G<sup>2</sup>  
Page 16